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new universe™
STAR BRAND™
TO RUSSIA WITH NUKES!
BURNS VanTrees
new universe

I'M TED KOPPEL, AND THIS IS NIGHTLINE. TONIGHT, MYSTERIES INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION. WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN A "CLOSED SOCIETY" BECOMES EVEN MORE SECRETIVE? WHAT IS HAPPENING, DEEP INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION? WHY DOES THAT GOVERNMENT WANT TO HIDE IT? AND WHAT EFFECT WILL IT HAVE ON THE REST OF THE WORLD?

ABC NIGHTLINE

TONIGHT, WE'LL EXPLORE THIS SUBJECT WITH OUR GUEST, VLADIMIR POSNER, COMMENTATOR FOR THE OFFICIAL SOVIET NEWS AGENCY, TASS.

A VEIL OF SECRECY HAS BEEN DRAWN ACROSS THE SOVIET UNION. SINCE THE RELEASE OF DISSIDENT ANDREI SAKAROV LAST DECEMBER, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PRACTICING A POLICY OF "GLASNOST." A RUSSIAN WORD MEANING "OPENNESS". IT HAS SYMBOLIZED SOVIET LEADER MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S STRATEGY OF CANDOR AND PUBLIC RELATIONS.

IN THE PAST TWO DAYS HOWEVER, THIS OPPENNESS HAS REVERSED. THERE HAVE BEEN NEW, TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS ON THE WORLD PRESS IN THE SOVIET UNION. VISAS HAVE BEEN REVOKED.

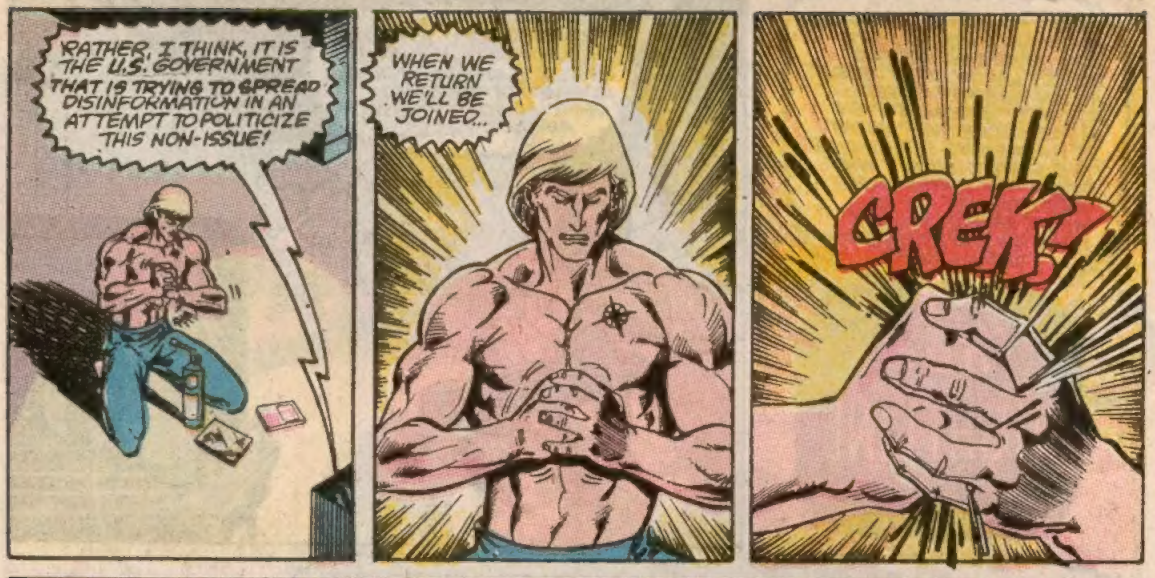
GEMS OF THE WORLD

TOURISTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM ENTERING. AS YET, NO COMMENT HAS BEEN MADE AND NO EXPLANATION GIVEN BY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES.

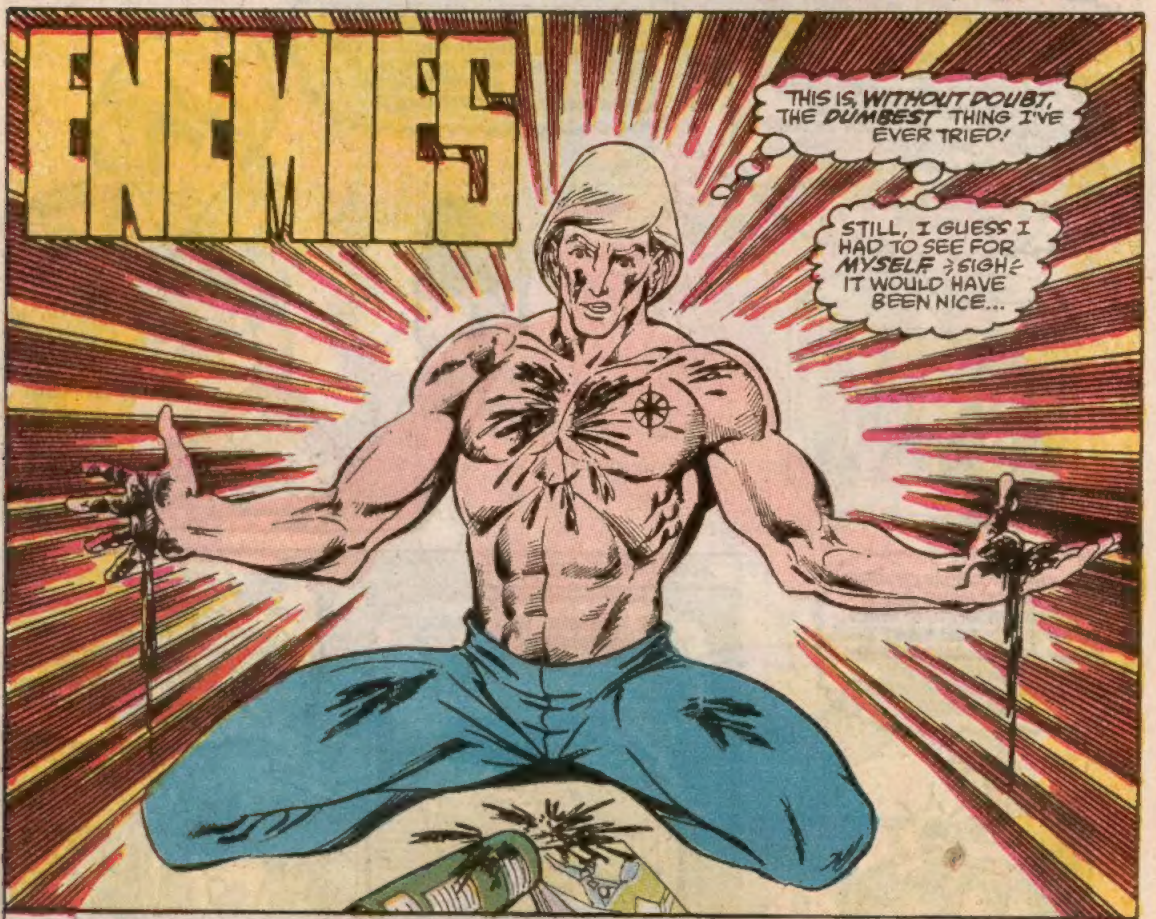
MINUTES LATER.

MR. POSNER, WHAT ABOUT THE INCREASED LEVELS OF RADIATION THAT THE JAPANESE REPORT TO BE COMING FROM YOUR COUNTRY'S EASTERNMOST REGION?

WELL, AS YOU KNOW, TED, MY COUNTRY'S SECURITY INTERESTS DO NOT ALLOW ME TO CONFIRM OR DENY SUCH RUMORS. WE HAVE EVERY DESIRE TO MAINTAIN OPENNESS AND FREE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH ALL COUNTRIES.


RATHER, I THINK, IT IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT IS TRYING TO SPREAD DISINFORMATION IN AN ATTEMPT TO POLITICIZE THIS NON-ISSUE!
WHEN WE RETURN WE'LL BE JOINED...
CREK!

ENEMIES



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Scanned by Toker The Kid

WEIRD. NEVER DID CARE MUCH FOR POLITICS. THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW, THANKS TO THAT OLD MAN. HE GAVE ME THIS TATOO ON MY CHEST. THE STAR BRAND. IT'S A WEAPON. MAKES ME THE MOST POWERFUL GUY ON EARTH. MORE POWERFUL THAN REAGAN... GORBACHEV. HECK, I'M MORE POWERFUL THAN WHOLE COUNTRIES!
EVERYTHING I DO IS KINDA POLITICAL NOW! SHOULD I CARE ABOUT WHAT GOES ON IN RUSSIA?
KLIK
THE NEXT MORNING.
SHOULD CALL THE DUCK TODAY. GO SEE HER TONIGHT. POOR KID. STUCK IN BED. HURT. MY FAULT! THE STAR BRAND'S FAULT! NO, MY FAULT.
McMULLEN AND ZAYRE RECONDITIONING SHOP
HOW LONG TILL YOU FINISH WITH THAT CRUISE CONTROL, KENNY-BOY?
'BOUT FIFTEEN-TWENTY MINUTES. HEY, BIG JOHN, DO YOU THINK MUCH ABOUT POLITICS?
YOU MEAN LIKE MAYOR CALIGURY? OR THE PRESIDENT AND LIKE THAT?
NO, NO. I MEAN THE BIG STUFF: RUSSIA AND AMERICA. STUFF LIKE THAT.
NOPE!
Diet Coke
WHY NOT?
I GUESS 'CAUSE IT DON'T AFFECT ME THAT MUCH.

YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG, JOHN! IT'S NOT THAT IT DON'T MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, IT'S THAT LITTLE GUYS LIKE US CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. WHY SHOULD WE CARE IF WE CAN'T CHANGE THINGS?
SUPPOSE YOU COULD CHANGE THINGS? WOULD YOU?
HA! YOU MIGHT AS WELL SUPPOSE YOU COULD FLY TO THE MOON!
LATER. AFTER WORK. IN WHITEHALL.
GOOD THING DEB LENT ME HER KEYS. WOULDN'T WANT HER GETTING OUT OF BED TO LET ME IN!
WHO'SIT? WHO'S THERE?
DON'T WORRY DEB, IT'S ME!
KENNY!

HEY!
MMMMMMMM!
AHEM! THIS IS NOT THE BEHAVIOR OF A SICK LITTLE GIRL!
IT ONLY HURTS WHEN I QUACK! ;GIGGLE!
SERIOUSLY, DUCK! HOW ARE YOU?
OKAY, I GUESS. TH' DOCTOR SAID I COULD BE UP AND ABOUT IN A FEW DAYS! MY RIBS AREN'T BROKEN--JUST BADLY BRUISED. QUACK!
DEB...DEB. I'M SO SORRY. IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
OH, KENNY! I DON'T BLAME YOU! I LOVE YOU! I KNOW YOU'D NEVER HURT ME!
DEBBIE! I KNOCKED YOU TWENTY FEET ACROSS THE DENNY'S PARKING LOT! I HAD THE STAR BRAND POWER ON! I'M SO STRONG I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE! I DINT LOOK WHEN I CROSSED! THAT CAR WOULD'A RUN OVER ME!

BUT IF I DIDN'T HAVE THIS POWER THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED!
KENNY, SHHH! S'OKAY! IT'LL BE ALRIGHT! JUST THINK'A ALL THE GOOD THINGS YA DONE WITH THE POWER.
KENNY?
YES?
CAN YA USE THE STAR BRAND POWER TO MAKE ME ALL BETTER?
WHAT?!
Y'KNOW, COULDJA FIX UP MY RIPS?
GEEZ, DUCK! I CAN'T DO THAT!
THE POWER ISN'T MAGIC!
GEE, I'M SORRY, JUST THOUGHT I'D ASK.
I WISH I COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT, DUCK! I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU BETTER!
WHAT IF I COULD CURE SICK PEOPLE WITH THE POWER?
I COULD NEVER CURE EVERYBODY. HOW WOULD I DECIDE WHO TO HELP? I ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH QUESTIONS LIKE THAT, AND ALL I DO IS DESTROY THINGS. THERE ARE MILLIONS OF SICK PEOPLE. I COULDN'T HELP THEM ALL.
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE TO DECIDE WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES! IF PEOPLE FOUND OUT, THEY'D NEVER LEAVE ME ALONE! IT'D BE EVEN WORSE THAN IF THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT THE POWER AS IT IS!
OOOO! YA BRUNG ME PIZZA! TOO BAD--NO ANCHOVIES!
CAN WE PLAY SOME BACKGAMMON? I BEEN SO BORED TODAY, WATCHIN' ALL THAT TV!
SURE, DUCK! ANYTHING YOU WANT!

IT'S UH--NOT LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING I WANT... Y'KNOW, STUCK IN BED LIKE THIS!
WELL THEN, MY PRETTY WATERFOWL! HEH! HEH! I SHALL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR RAVISHING YOU ON THE BACK-GAMMOM BOARD!
OH, SAVE ME! QUICK!
LATER.
HOW COME YOU ALWAYS WIN AT THIS, DUCK?
QUACK! QUACK! JUST LUCKY I GUESS!
RUMMAGE
'SCUSE ME, KENNY. HELLO? OH, HIYA, MYRON! YEAH, HE'S HERE.
IT'S FOR YOU. IT'S MYRON. HE SOUNDS MAD.
WHASSUP, MYRON?
QUICK, TURN ON THE NEWS!
LOOK, I'M KIND OF... BUSY, WITH DEB.
KEN! PLEASE! IT'S IMPORTANT! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH!
...TINUING TO REPORT ON TONIGHT'S TOP STORY, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT RE-PORTED A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN THE SOVIET UNION TO-DAY. IT WAS ES-TIMATED TO BE A 5 KILOTON EXPLOSION, CENTERED IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE OF YAKUSK.
THE EXPLOSION IS A VIOLATION OF THE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUN-TRIES. THE SOVIET GOVERN-MENT AND THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS HAVE OFFERED NO EXPLANATION, COMMENT, OR EVEN CONFIRMATION OF THE EXPLOSION.
USSR?
AMIDST RUMORS OF ABOUT POSSIBLE FIGHT-ING AND EVEN FULL-SCALE WAR INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION, THE US STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO WITHHELD COMMENT TO THE PRESS. PENDING, IN IT'S OWN WORDS... "FURTHER INVESTIGATION!"

WELL THIS IS INTERESTING-- BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
I'M GONNA GET BACK TO THE DUCK--!
...ONE MOMENT... REPEATING THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS STORY. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS CLAIMED THAT THE EXPLOSION IN YAKUSK TODAY IS A RESULT OF AN ACT OF AGGRESSION BUT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. WHITEHOUSE SPOKESMAN LARRY SPEAKS DENIED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS SITUATION AND STILL REFUSED TO CONFIRM THAT THE EXPLOSION EVEN OCCURRED.
HERE TO COMMENT ON THESE EVENTS IS ABC NEWS SCIENCE CORRESPONDANT SAM JOHNSON.
ABC NIGHTLINE
ANALYSIS OF PHOTOS TAKEN BY WEATHER SATELLITES IN THE LAST FEW HOURS CONFIRMS THAT AN AREA OF THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE EFFECTS OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON OR OTHER SUCH EXTREME DAMAGE. THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE THAT SOME FIGHTING HAS BEEN GOING ON AT THE SAME TIME. WE MUST STRESS THAT WE DO NOT, AS YET, KNOW WHO IS FIGHTING WHOM. OUR REPORTS ARE FRAGMENTED AT BEST.
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! BUT WHAT?
I'LL GO SEE MYRON--HE'LL KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO!
I'LL STOP OFF AT MY PLACE FIRST. PICK UP MY GEAR.
30 MINUTES LATER...
GOT EVERYTHING?
COMPASS. FLASHLIGHT. MAPS. YEAH, I GOT IT ALL. WISH I HAD A RUSSIAN PHRASE-BOOK.

KEN, I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR DISAGREEMENTS... YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD FRIEND TO ME. TAKE CARE! OKAY?
YOU, TOO. I'VE GOT THE BRAND, IT'S NOT ME I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
BUT, IF - SOMETHING HAPPENS... UH-- TAKE CARE OF DEB FOR ME!
I'M A 6' OBJECT MOVING AT BALLISTIC VELOCITY. SURE DON'T WANT TO BE MISTAKEN FOR A MISSLE TONIGHT.
I THINK RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN EARLY WARNING AND RADAR ARE BEST OVER THE POLE AND WEAKEST FROM THE SOUTH.
ALL RIGHT... CROSSED THE PACIFIC, SWING SOUTH OF THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA, INDIA. SHOULD BE OVER PAKISTAN.

EAST-NORTHEAST... CHINA... MONGOLIA... RUSSIA... DROP DOWN...
WHOA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THESE PEOPLE! THEY DID IT AGAIN!
...OR... MAYBE IT WAS THE OLD MAN...
I HAVE A WEAPON TOO, CONNELL... I ALSO HAVE NO COMPUNCTIONS ABOUT DEVASTATING THIS ENTIRE PLANET--
HE'D DO IT... BUT WHY RUSSIA? WHY NOT COME TO ME? NO! THIS TIME, I GET TO PICK WHERE WE FIGHT!
THIS IS SURE MAKING IT EASY TO FIND HIM.
MUSHROOM CLOUD. NOT LIKE STAR BRAND. MUST HAVE BEEN ANOTHER NUKE.
"I AM BECOME DEATH, THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS..." SOME SCIENTIST SAID THAT WHEN HE SAW THE FIRST A-BOMB. COULD HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT ME, TOO...

RADIATION ISN'T A PROBLEM FOR ME.
WON'T FIND ANYTHING IN THIS MESS. TOO MUCH SMOKE. I'LL COME BACK. GOTTA CHECK OUT THE FIRST BLAST.
NOT TOO HARD TO FIND. KNOCKED DOWN A LOT OF TREES. FIRES STILL GOING ON MILES FROM GROUND ZERO
IDIOTS! IF IT WAS THE OLD MAN, THIS WOULDN'T STOP HIM. IF IT WASN'T... HOW CAN PEOPLE DO THIS TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY?

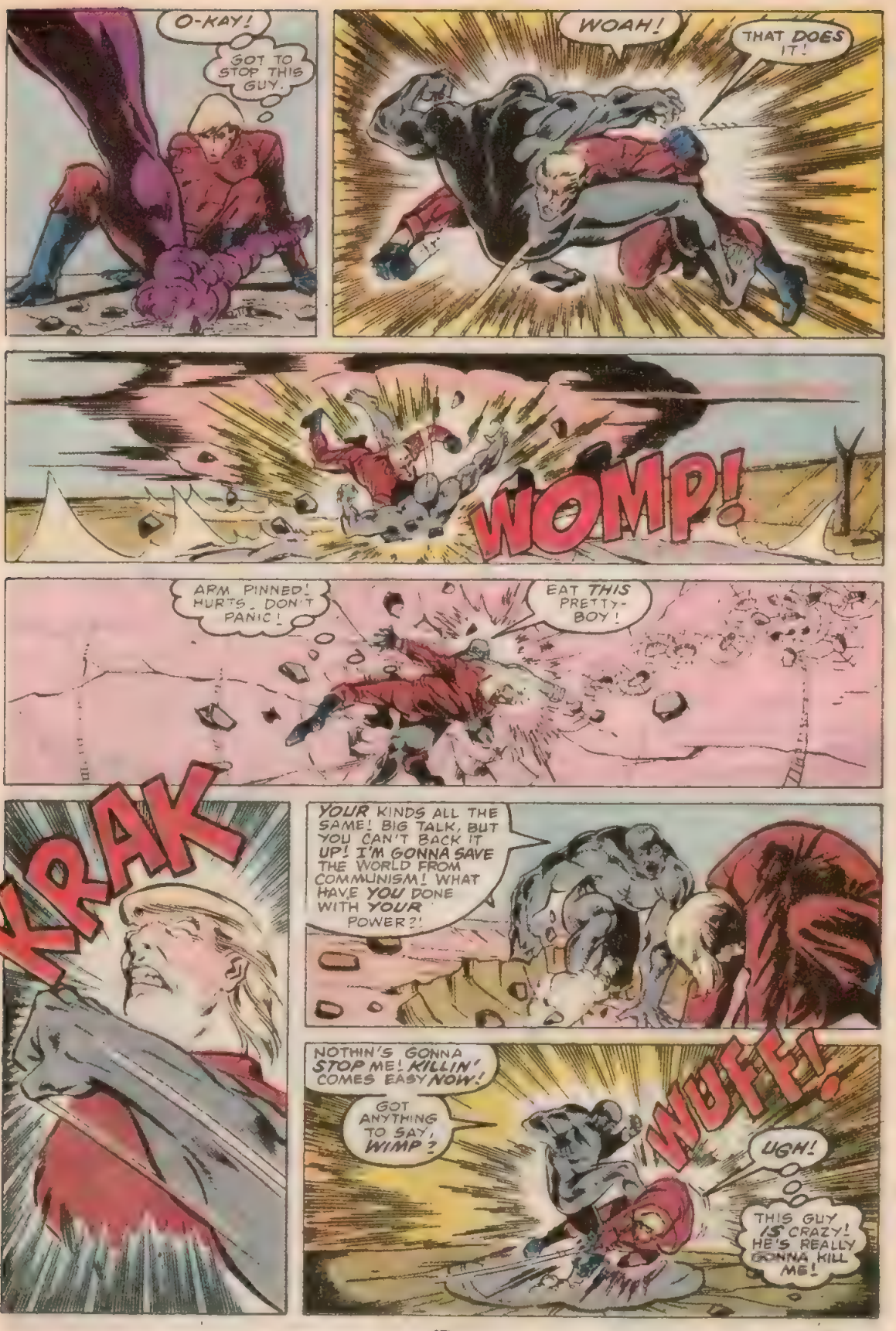
I GUESS THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD NO CHOICE.
I'M NO BETTER. I'VE USED THE POWER OF THE BRAND TO FIGHT. PROTECT MYSELF. USED THE "STAR BLAST" AT THE SLAG DUMP.
WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS... I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM. HERE. NOW.
A FEW MILES EAST. SOME KIND OF BATTLE. OVER NOW. NO MOVEMENT.
OH... GOD...
THIS IS... HORRIBLE... LIKE A NIGHTMARE...
WHAT MADE THESE FOOTPRINTS?
HUH?
--POZHALUSTA--
POMOGITE -KOFF- MENIIA. POZHALUSTA.
GEEZ, I KNOW ABOUT THREE WORDS IN RUSSIAN... FROM AN OLD HOGAN'S HEROES EPISODE.
TOW-VAR-ISH!
FRIEND!
TAKE IT EASY, PAL!
BAD BURNS. RADIATION? FIRE? LIGHT?

HE'S DEAD!
THESE ARE RUSSIANS, IS THIS ANY OF MY BUSINESS? I FOUGHT THE RUSSIANS IN AFGHANISTAN. WE MAY NOT BE FRIENDS, BUT AT LEAST WE'RE ALL HUMAN. NO WAY AM I GONNA LET SOME ALIEN COME HERE AND KILL PEOPLE.
OKAY, WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU WANT A FIGHT? YOU GOT IT! YOUR BUTT IS MINE!
OKAY! THOSE FOOTPRINTS MUST HAVE BEEN MADE BY WHOEVER TRASHED THE RUSSIANS. FUNNY. IF IT IS THE OLD MAN, HE MUST WEIGH A LOT TO LEAVE 6" DEEP PRINTS. BESIDES, HE CAN FLY.
HE MUST BE TRAVELING ALONG THE RAILROAD SLOW, BUT IT MAKES SENSE IF YOU'RE WALKING. ONLY WAY TO FIND YOUR WAY OUT HERE.
TRACKS CONTINUE ON THIS SIDE OF THE BLAST CRATER LEADS RIGHT TOWARD WHERE THE SECOND BOMB WAS DROPPED.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THE TRACK AND IT'LL LEAD ME RIGHT TO HIM.
HEY, JUST REALIZED I GOT TO GO TO WORK TODAY-- YESTERDAY? TOMORROW? I CROSSED THE DATE LINE, WHAT DAY IS IT ANYWAY? WELL, BY SUBJECTIVE TIME, I'VE BEEN GONE FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, SO IT MUST BE 1 A.M. IN PITTSBURGH.
BINGO!

THAT'S NOT THE OLD MAN! WHO? PLAY IT COOL... FIND OUT ABOUT HIM. 6" DEEP FOOTPRINTS! WOW!
HEY!
HUH?
BACK OFF RUSKIE!!
I'M NOT RUSSIAN! I'M AMERICAN!
I'LL BET! PROVE IT! WHO WON THE SUPERBOWL LAST YEAR?
ARE YOU KIDDING THEY ONLY DO THAT IN OLD WAR MOVIES!
FAIR ENOUGH! NICE TO SEE YA! BETTER STAY CLEAR OF ME! THE REDS ARE SAYIN' I'M GIVIN' OFF A LOTTA RADIATION!
HOW DO YOU DO THAT? FLY I MEAN
DON'T WORRY. RADIATION CAN'T HURT ME!
I GUESS WE'RE TWO OF A KIND
I'M RANDY KELLOG, I'M THE STRONGEST GUY IN THE WORLD AND NOTHING CAN HURT ME CALL ME THE GLADIATOR!
WHAT?
PRETTY NEAT, HUH? I FIGURED THAT A NAME LIKE THAT'D SCARE THE COMMIES!
SLOW DOWN, HUH? LET'S TALK HOW DID YOU GET THIS WAY?
WELL, ALL RIGHT. I GUESS I CAN SPARE A FEW MINUTES FOR A REAL AMERICAN. I'M HEAVY. REAL HEAVY. I WEIGH... I DON'T KNOW... A LOT! LAST SUMMER I STARTED GAINING WEIGHT I DIDN'T GET BIGGER, JUST HEAVIER!
"THE HEAVIER I GOT, THE STRONGER I GOT. AT FIRST IT SCARED ME. I STARTED TO SINK INTO SOFT GROUND. I DIDN'T PANIC. I LEARNED HOW TO DEAL WITH IT. IT'S KIND OF LIKE WALKING IN SNOW."
"WHAT ARE YOU MADE OF?"
"I DON'T KNOW, BUT I DON'T HAVE TO EAT OR GO TO THE BATHROOM. I HARDLY EVER GET TIRED.

THAT MAKES SENSE! YOU'RE MADE OUT OF SOMETHING A LOT DENSER THAN A HUMAN BODY. YOU CAN'T HAVE BLOOD CELLS ANYMORE, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO BREATHE ANYMORE. NO HUMAN CELLS AT ALL, YOU DON'T NEED TO EAT. NO LACTIC ACID IN YOUR BODY, NO FATIGUE.
LET ME THINK...
LATER...
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE HUMAN ANYMORE, RANDY!
THEN WHAT AM I?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE YOU'RE LIKE A STAR. I READ SOMEWHERE THAT STARS COLLAPSE AND COMPRESS THE SAME MASS INTO SMALLER AND SMALLER SIZE, BUT INSTEAD YOU ADD MASS AND STAY THE SAME SIZE!
ALL THE OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO ARE JUST SIDE EFFECTS. THINGS YOUR BODY DOES TO ALLOW IT TO SURVIVE! LIKE BEING STRONG!
BOY, YOU'RE SMART. I'M GLAD WE TALKED! NOW I GOTTA GET GOING, THE RUSSIANS MIGHT SHOW ANYTIME NOW, IT'S BEEN A COUPLE'O DAYS SINCE THEIR LAST OFFENSIVE!
WAIT! HOW'D YOU GET HERE? WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
WELL, 'FORE I GOT TOO HEAVY, I HIJACKED A JAPANESE SHIP AND HAD 'EM TAKE ME A FEW MILES OFF THE RUSSIAN COAST. I WALKED ASHORE. I USED TO BE A SOLDIER. I'M GONNA OVERTHROW THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT! NOTHIN' CAN STOP ME! THEY TRIED EVERYTHING!
PLANES, SOLDIERS, TANKS! THEY EVEN DROPPED A NUKE ON ME--TWICE!
SEE THIS RAILROAD? IT LEADS STRAIGHT TO MOSCOW. IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME, BUT WHEN I GET THERE, THE RUSKIES ARE GONNA SEE SOME RED STARS! POW!
I GOT THE IDEA FROM THIS BOOK I READ--!
"ALL I GOTTA DO IS GO KNOCK OFF THE BIG REDS IN MOSCOW! AMERICA WINS! NO MORE COLD WAR! NO MORE NUKES! 'CEPT FOR OURS, OF COURSE. THE WORLD'S A BETTER PLACE.

YOU CAN'T JUST GO AROUND OVERTHROWING COUNTRIES! YOU KILLED THE MEN IN THOSE TANKS!
SURE I DID! I GOT THE POWER! I GOT TO USE IT TO FIGHT EVIL! PRESIDENT REAGAN SAYS RUSSIA IS A "EVIL EMPIRE"!
THEM SOLDIERS WERE BAD!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE REAL WORLD WHILE YOU'RE OUT HERE KILLING PEOPLE?
THE RUSSIANS THINK YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT!
BUT I TOLD 'EM THAT I DON'T WORK FOR ANY-THING BUT FREEDOM!
YOU THINK THAT'S GOING TO HELP? THEY'RE SCARED! THEY'RE GOING TO DECLARE WAR ON AMERICA IF YOU DON'T STOP!
THEY TOLD ME THE SAME THING A FEW DAYS AGO, BUT THEY DIDN'T DO IT!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
YOU'RE GONNA GET THE WHOLE WORLD BLOWN UP!!
BACK OFF, MAN!
HEY, I BEEN NICE TO YOU! I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON MY SIDE! I DON'T WANNA KILL YOU, BUT IF YOU TRY TO STOP ME, I WILL!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO! I CAN STOP YOU!
YOU AND WHAT ARMY, SKINNY??
WHAM


O-KAY!
GOT TO STOP THIS GUY.
WOAH!
THAT DOES IT!
WOMP!
ARM PINNED! HURTS. DON'T PANIC!
EAT THIS PRETTY-BOY!
KRAK
YOUR KINDS ALL THE SAME! BIG TALK, BUT YOU CAN'T BACK IT UP! I'M GONNA SAVE THE WORLD FROM COMMUNISM! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH YOUR POWER?!
NOTHIN'S GONNA STOP ME! KILLIN' COMES EASY NOW!
GOT ANYTHING TO SAY, WIMP?
WUFF!
UGH!
THIS GUY IS CRAZY! HE'S REALLY GONNA KILL ME!

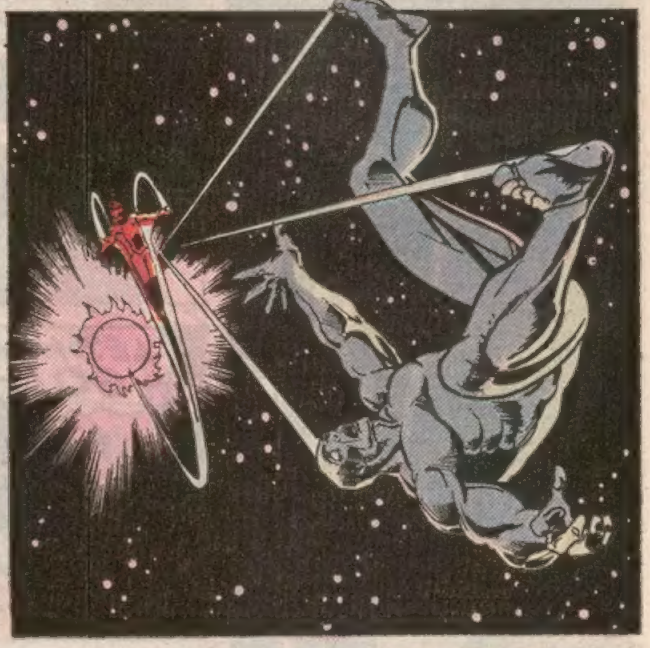
YEAH.
SO LONG SUCKER.
USED THE BLAST. LET THE POWER RISE, LIKE A STAR.. KILLED HIM?? NO. SURVIVED A NUKE... CAN'T STOP HIM?
RRRAAAGG!!
URF!
WAK
I'LL KILL YOU, MAN! JUST LIKE THE RUSKIES! NOBODY'S GONNA STOP ME!
HOK
CAN'T PANIC... LOSE POWER-- DEAD MEAT --HE'LL SQUASH ME!
KRAK

TAKE OFF! GET AWAY!
CHICKEN! JERK! COME BACK HERE!
HURT... PAIN... LOSER... CAN'T STOP HIM...
"STAR BLAST" DIDN'T STOP HIM. NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP HIM. DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM! JUST STOP HIM!
THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T DO IT! DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO KILL HIM. NEVER KILLED BEFORE! "IT TAKES COURAGE TO USE THE WEAPON'" THIS ISN'T A GAME. HAVE TO KILL HIM, NO CHOICE!
RANDY ISN'T EVIL. HE'S DOING WHAT HE BELIEVES IN. MORE THAN I'VE DONE. WE MIGHT HAVE FRIENDS. SOMEONE TO SHARE THIS SECRET, THE POWER.
DON'T LIKE THE RUSSIANS, BUT I GOTTA SAVE THEM! NEVER GET TO PICK ENEMIES...
ENEMY PICKED FOR ME... IF I DON'T KILL RANDY, IT'S WORLD WAR III! THE END! DUCK... DAD... MYRON... BARB... EVERYBODY DEPENDS ON ME! THIS POWER. I DON'T WANT TO! DON'T WANT TO DECIDE WHO LIVES AND DIES!!

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU, RANDY. IF YOU DON'T STOP, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU!
YOU'D BETTER TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT, 'CAUSE IF I GET MY HANDS ON YOU--YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!
IT'S YOU OR THE WORLD! PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS!
SHUT UP!
WHERE IS HE?? I'M GONNA KILL HIM!
LAST CHANCE!
WHAT THE--?!
HEAVY! CAN HANDLE IT!
THAT'S IT!! DEAD MEAT MAN!

ACCELERATE HIM TO NEAR LIGHT SPEED. GRAVITY WON'T SLOW HIM DOWN GOING THAT FAST. IN SPACE THINGS KEEP GOING UNTIL ACTED UPON BY AN OUTSIDE FORCE. POINT HIM AT THE SUN... NOTHING CAN SURVIVE THAT!
NO OTHER CHOICE. CAN'T LEAVE HIM ON EARTH. HE'LL KILL ME IF I LET HIM GO. NOBODY ELSE CAN DO IT!
MY CHOICE. COLD BLOODED MURDER.
LET HIM GO. TURN AROUND. HEAD HOME!
LET HIM GO!
I...
I CAN'T DO IT!
COWARD! CAN'T TAKE HIM HOME, CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE! CAN'T KILL HIM!
ONE LAST CHOICE!

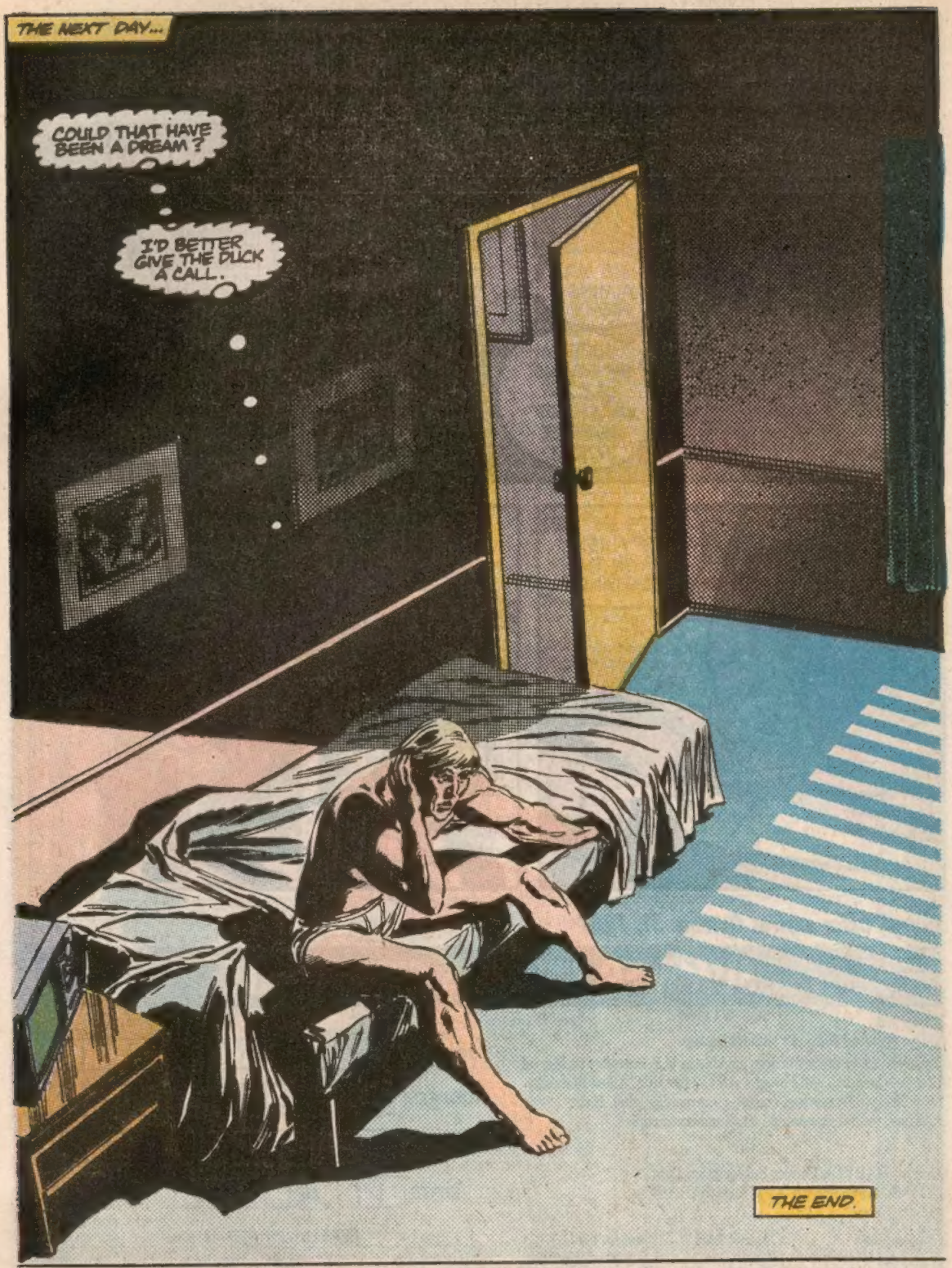
HEAVEN HELP ME!



DEEP SPACE. HE'LL GO IN A STRAIGHT LINE, NOTHING TO STOP HIM. HE WON'T DIE. DRIFTING IN SPACE... FOREVER.
HE WON'T DIE. WORSE THAN DEATH! I COULDN'T KILL HIM, SO I DID SOMETHING WORSE! JUST TO EASE MY CONSCIENCE ABOUT KILLING!

RULER OF THE WORLD. MY CHOICE. MY RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE!

I DON'T WANT TO DECIDE WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES!
THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST TIME. ONLY THE FIRST TIME...



NEXT ISSUE:

STARBRAND GOES PUBLIC IN

CELEBRITY

BY JOHN BYRNE AND TOM PALMER

universe news

THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH!

After guiding Marvel Comics to dazzling new creative heights for the past nine and a half years, *Jim Shooter* has stepped down from his position as the Editor in Chief. Unquestionably one of the most talented creative people in the entire comic book industry, Jim was always spearheading the development of new formats, new concepts and exciting new comic book series! (Like The 'Nam! X-Factor! Power Pack! The Punisher! New Mutants! And others!)

Marvel produced its very first Graphic Novels, Limited Series and "Direct-Only" comics under his superb editorial leadership. His accomplishments are too numerous to list here. Suffice it to say that he will be missed.

THE NEW ORDER BEGINS . . .

Our new Editor in Chief is none other than *Two-Fisted Tom DeFalco* . . . A man who needs no introduction to Marveldom Assembled! (But who will be real miffed if he doesn't get one!)

The subject of one of our Bullpen *Pro Files* a few months back, Tom is a fifteen-year veteran in the comics biz. Since he joined Marvel in 1980, he served as the editor of our *Spider-Man* line of comics and later as the writer of such popular series as *The Amazing Spider-Man, Machine Man* and *Firestar*. As our Executive Editor, he also helped establish Marvel's *Star Comics* line.

We're sure you join with us in wishing Tom the best of luck in his new job!

Pro File on: HOWARD MACKIE

Editor on: The whole New Universe line, STARBRAND, DP7, JUSTICE and PSI-FORCE
Marvel freelance credits (past): Scripts: IRON MAN #211, CHUCK NORRIS #4–5
Marvel freelance credits (present): Scripts: AIR RAIDERS
My hobbies are: Practicing the martial arts, juggling, and adding to my tinfoil ball
My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York
My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Growing a moustache at age 11.
My oddest habit is: Growing my hair to look like Greg Wright's.
If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: James Brolin
The reason I got into comics was: Because my life up until that point was completely boring.
The last good movie I saw was: DREAMCHILD
The last good book I read was: THE VAMPIRE LESTAT by Anne Rice
My pet peeves are: Freelancers who are late with their work, papercuts on my tongue, and Greg Wright.
My favorite performers are: The Flying Brothers Karamazov, Phillip Glass, and James Brolin.
My greatest unfulfilled ambition is: To write a regular series for more than 2 issues.
When nobody's looking I like to: Crack my knuckles.
The worst part of my job is: Having an office without a window.
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: That I'm a nicer person than James Brolin and Greg Wright put together.

ITEM: We are one month away from picking the winner of our New Universe Slogan contest. Until then, here are a few more of your agonizing entries:

"The Universe Beyond Your Dreams"
—Shea Stronger, Mena, AR

"New Universe: Think of the Possibilities"
—Mike Toner, Winnepeg, Manitoba, Canada

"Where Anything Can Happen and Does"
—Tony Ratliff, Somerville, TX

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How will New Universe: Year Two be different from New Universe: Year One?

"We'll have more tightly coordinated continuity among the books, more crossovers, more super-powered characters making appearances, and occurrences of much greater magnitude. Oh yes, we'll also be learning what caused the White Event which started the New Universe back in July 1986!"
—Howard Mackie, New Universe Editor

"New Universe: It's Not So New. You've Been Living in It For Years"
—Michael Robbins, Colorado Springs, CO

"Brave New World, Brave New Universe"
—Cathy Bevona, Scarsdale, NY

"Knowing No Limits, The New Universe"
—John Ziolowski

"A New View For the New You"
—Geoff Pomper, Vancouver, B.C., Canada

"To boldly go where no comics have gone before — New Universe"
—Michael Cesario, Oak Park, IL

"New Universe: Crossroads to Legends"
—Jim Marshall, Blacksburg, VA

"Nuke Me With the New"
—Ernest Pascua, Hilo, HA

"The New Universe is full of stars, in more ways than one"
—Eric Rodriguez, Mt. Vernon, WA

"Until White Event II, I'll stick with the New"
—Larry Jeffries, Temple Hills, MD

"New Universe: This Time It's for Real"
—Rodney A. Underwood, Fairborn, OH

"To Believe It, You Have to See It"
—Mark Pitcher, St. John's Newfoundland, Canada

"The Storm After the Calm"
—David Cassell, Tiffin, OH

"Catapulting Comics Into the Future"
—Sean Kane, APO New York, NY

"Go Nova with the New Universe"
—Thomas Robinson Jr., Philadelphia, PA

See you next month with the winner!

NEW UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

- ☐ **PSI-FORCE #13** — It's the return of Psi-Force's very first foe — Serge Vladimoff, the KGB agent!
- ☐ **MERC ANNUAL #1** — Mark Hazzard faces death for the final time!
- ☐ **D.P. 7 ANNUAL #1** — He was the only one to actually see the Displaced Paranormals gain their unusual powers. But, who is . . . The Witness?
- ☐ **D.P. 7 #13** — Overshadow is gone! Who will control the Clinic now?
- ☐ **JUSTICE #13** — Justice pursues a Bonnie & Clyde-like pair of robbers!
- ☐ **STAR BRAND #10** — Star Brand faces his greatest challenge — in Russia!

IT'S 1987. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILDREN ARE?

Paid for by citizens in support of The Mutant Registration Act.

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